

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:413

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002

SAARC MEET

RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at the recently concluded SAARC Ministers` meet at Kathmandu, the issue of terrorism was discussed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken on that account;
- (c) the other issues and proposals taken up at the meet;
- (d) the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether on the sidelines of the meet, both India and Pakistan took up bilateral issues; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The issue of Terrorism in the regional context did come up in the discussion of the SAARCCouncil of Ministers Meeting in August, 2002.
- (b),(c)&(d) The ministers reiterated the decisions of the 11th SAARC Summit to redouble efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism. The Ministers also recommended that an additional Protocol to the 1987 SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism be prepared. India`s proposal for convening a SAARC Ministerial level meeting to discuss the issue of terrorism, was accepted.The Meeting of Legal Experts to Draft the Protocol and the Ministerial Meeting are expected to be held in the near future.
- (e) &(f) No, Sir. There were no bilateral exchanges between India and Pakistan